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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kuno et al.

Serial No.: 09/384,532

Art Unit: 2624

Filed: August 27, 1999

Examiner: D.Q. Tran

For: **PRINT SYSTEM CAPABLE OF NOTIFYING USER OF REQUIRED INK AMOUNT**

CUSTOMER NO. 29540

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request that the two (2) references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08A Form be considered and made of record in the above-identified file. The requisite fee of \$180 under 37 CFR §1.17(p) is also enclosed.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 21, 2007

Robert Norton

Attorney

Signature

June 21, 2006

Date of Signature

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 50-1145.

06/25/2007 HDESTA1 00000045 09384532

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REMARKS

Enclosed herewith are copies of the two (2) Japanese references and their respective English abstracts. A PTO/SB/08A Form listing the two (2) references is also enclosed. One of the references, JP9-134261 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 6,813,038 and U.S. Published Application 2005/0007633. The references were cited in an Office Action issued for the Japanese parent application on May 8, 2007. An English translation of the Office Actions is also enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

The present Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is submitted within three months of the date of the Office Action being issued by the Japanese Patent Office. A Notice of Allowance has been issued in this application but the issue fee has not been paid. Applicants respectfully request the references be considered and made of record since a check for the fee under Section §1.17(p) is enclosed along with the above certification as required under 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1).

Applicants do not believe that any other fees are due. However, if any additional fees are due, please charge such sums to our Deposit Account 50-1145.

Respectfully submitted,


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Reference No. PBR01639

Dispatch No. 213732

Mailing Date: May 8, 2007

(Translation)
Decision of Rejection

Patent Application Number: H10-245628

Drafted Date: April 27, 2007

Patent Office Examiner: Yasushi SIMIZU 9011 2P00

Title of Invention: Print System

Applicant: Brother Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha

Agent(s) for Applicant(s): Tsutomu ADACHI

The above-identified application should be rejected for reasons stated in the Office Action dated April 24, 2006. The Argument and Amendment previously filed were considered. However, any grounds to overcome the rejection cannot be discovered.

Remarks

Reference 1 cited in the previous Office Action discloses the print system 1 including the host computer 10 for forming image data for recording and the colour inkjet recording device 30 capable of recording a colour image on a recording medium based on the image data for recording transmitted from the host computer 10, the colour inkjet recording device 30 includes the remaining ink amount memory 92b for storing a remaining amount of ink consumed by a process for recording a colour image, the host computer 10 notifying the remaining amount of ink stored in the remaining ink amount memory 92b. The print system 1 is configured such that the host computer 10 displays a remaining ink amount for four colours with bar graphs on a CRT display 11, compares the remaining ink amount with the predetermined value, and displays warning messages for notifying a user that the remaining ink amount is not sufficient and for urging a user to replace an ink cartridge if the remaining ink amount is lower than the predetermined value. Reference 1 further discloses, as a means for recognising the remaining ink amount stored in the remaining ink amount memory 92b, the means for calculating the remaining ink amount by subtracting the amount consumed by the process for recording a colour image (in particular, refer to paragraphs [0049] to [0050]) and the means for detecting the remaining ink amount in the colour inkjet recording device 30 (in particular, refer to paragraph [0052]).

Compared the invention in amended claim 1 with the invention disclosed in the above Reference 1, both inventions are different as described below. (hereinafter, expediently, the invention in amended claim 1 is referred to as "the former" and the invention disclosed in Reference 1 is referred to as "the latter".)

Difference 1: The former includes a printer controller that is connected between an information processing terminal and a printer and converts at least data to be printed into print data capable of being processed in the printer, and the printer controller includes the means for storing a remaining ink amount. The latter does not include this type of printer controller, and the remaining ink amount memory 92b (corresponding to the means for storing a remaining ink amount) is provided to the colour inkjet recording device 30 (corresponding to the printer).

Difference 2: The means for notifying a remaining ink amount of the former is

configured to display a graph by enlarging, if a display enlarging mode is selected by a user and if timing for replenishing ink is judged by a means for judging timing for replenishment. The means for materialising a function to notify the remaining ink amount of the latter is configured to display warning messages for notifying a user that the remaining ink amount is not sufficient and for urging a user to replace an ink cartridge if the remaining ink amount is lower than the predetermined value.

Each difference is considered.

Regarding difference 1, as pointed out in the previous Office Action, an art that a printer controller for converting data to be printed into print data capable of being processed in a printer is connected between an information processing terminal and a printer has been well known prior to the filing of the present application as disclosed in References 7 and 8. It is merely design change to add the well known printer controller into the print system 1 disclosed in Reference 1.

If such configuration is adopted, the colour inkjet recording device 30 eventually communicates the host computer 10 through the printer controller. Thus, it is a matter of design choice for a person skilled in the art to decide appropriately, associated with specific application of art, as to whether the means for storing the remaining ink amount is provided to the colour inkjet recording device 30 or to the printer controller.

Accordingly, it is merely design change to apply the configuration of the invention in amended claim 1 regarding difference 1 to the print system 1 disclosed in Reference 1.

Next, difference 2 is considered.

The print system 1 disclosed in Reference 1 configures that waning messages are displayed to notify a user that the remaining ink amount is not sufficient and to urge a user to replace an ink cartridge if the remaining ink amount is low so that a user easily recognises that the remaining ink amount is low. However, it is easily recognised that it depends on respective users as to what kind of display mode is preferable for a user. A person skilled in the art could have easily conceived a configuration that a plurality of display modes are prepared to notify a user that the remaining ink amount is not sufficient and a user can select a preferable mode.

Further, as pointed out in the previous Office Action, an art to change the scale of displayed graphs has been well-known prior to the filing of the present application, as shown in References 3 and 4,. It can be easily conceived that, compared to the normal scale of display, the enlarged scale of display can draw more attention of a user who look at the display. As one of display modes, a person skilled in the art could have easily adopted the means for displaying a graph by enlarging a scale. Accordingly, a person skilled in the art could have easily achieved to apply a configuration of the invention in amended claim 1 regarding the difference 2 to the print system 1 disclosed in reference 1.

As stated above, each difference is merely design change. Or it could have been easily achieved by a person skilled in the art. Accordingly, the invention in amended claim 1 could have been easily invented by a person skilled in the art based on the invention disclosed in Reference 1 and the above well-known arts (at least, the inventions in References 1 to 8).

The features in amended claims 2 to 6 are as pointed out in the previous Office

Action. The feature in amended claim 7 is merely a common practice when displaying a graph. Accordingly, neither does the invention in amended claims 2 to 7 have inventive step.

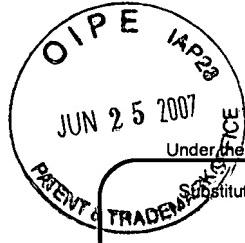
List of Cited References

1. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 9-156123 (already cited in the office action)
2. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 5-309876 (already cited in the office action)
3. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 5-61983 (already cited in the office action)
4. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 5-165973 (already cited in the office action)
5. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 9-120345 already (cited in the office action)
6. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 6-183106 (already cited in the office action)
7. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 9-134261 (newly cited well known art)
8. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 6-208442 (newly cited well known art)

If you are not satisfied with the above decision, you are given an opportunity to file an Appeal against a Decision of Rejection with the Commissioner of Japan Patent Office within 30 days (90 days in case of an overseas applicant) from the mailing date of the present Decision (Article 121 Paragraph 1 of Japanese Patent Law).

(Teaching based on Article 46 Paragraph 2 of Law on Administrative Suits)

You are allowed to file a lawsuit only against an Appeal Decision to an Appeal against this Decision (Article 178 Paragraph 6 of Japanese Patent Law).



PTO/SB/08A (04-07)

Approved for use through 09/30/2007. OMB 0651-0031

Approved for use through 03/31/2007. GMD 8551-001
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Complete if Known

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Application Number	09/384,532
Filing Date	August 27, 1999
First Named Inventor	Kuno et al.
Art Unit	2624
Examiner Name	D.Q. Tran
Attorney Docket Number	3517-45

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP 9-134261 (w/ Eng. Abs.)	05-20-1997	Canon KK		
		JP 6-208442 (w/ Eng. Abs.)	07-26-1994	Canon KK		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.